

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-19 SAM-01 SAJ-01

NEA-14 IO-14 DRC-01 /162 W
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R 141458Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1085

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 4144

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER
VAN ELSLANDE

1. DURING MY INITIAL CALL JUNE 13 ON THE FOREIGN
MINISTER, IN WHICH I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DCM, I TOOK
OCCASION TO ASK HIS VIEWS ON THE SIGNIFICANCE FOR
EUROPE AND ATLANTIC RELATIONS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENTS
IN FRANCE AND GERMANY. VAN ELSLANDE, REFERRING
PARTICULARLY TO FRANCE, SAID THAT HE COULD SEE DISTINCT
SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE ATMOSPHERE FLOWING FROM THE
NEW TEAM IN POWER. AT THE LUXEMBOURG MEETING OF
FOREIGN MINISTERS, A GREATER ABILITY TO REACH AGREEMENT
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AMONG THE NINE WAS ALREADY IN EVIDENCE AND THIS

IMPRESSION WAS STRONGLY REINFORCED BY THE PROGRESS MADE AT THE BONN MEETING EARLIER THIS WEEK. HE CONSIDERED IT HOPEFUL THAT THE NINE HAD NOW BEEN ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A EUROPE-ARAB DIALOGUE. PROSPECTS FOR U.S. EUROPEAN RELATIONS ALSO APPEARED IN A BETTER LIGHT. IN BONN THE FRENCH HAD BEEN NOTABLY MORE AMENABLE TO PRINCIPLE OF CONSULTING WITH THE U.S. AND HAD NOT CREATED OBSTACLES TO FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER DISCUSSING EC-9 DEVELOPMENTS WITH THE SECRETARY ON BEHALF OF THE NINE.

2. I ALSO SOUNDED OUT VAN ELSLANDE ON THE RECENT ENLARGEMENT OF THE TINDEMANS GOVERNMENT. VAN ELSLANDE INDICATED THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE OPTIMISM WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AT HAVING BROUGHT ABOUT THE "LITTLE ENLARGEMENT". WHILE THIS EUPHORIA MIGHT NOT LAST LONG, THE ENLARGEMENT SHOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO TAKE NEEDED ACTION IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE, PARTICULARLY IN COMBATTING INFLATION. WITH REGARD TO PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER ENLARGEMENT. VAN ELSLANDE BELIEVES THERE IS A REASONABLE CHANCE THAT THE OTHER LINGUISTIC PARTIES--THE FDF (BRUSSELS) AND VOLKSUNIE (FLANDERS)-- WOULD COME TO THE GOVERNMENT AFTER THE PARLIAMENTARY SUMMER RECESS. THE CHANCES WILL DIMINISH SHARPLY, HOWEVER, IF THESE POTENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE COALITION REMAIN FOR MANY MONTHS IN OPPOSITION. THE BEST HOPE FOR THE "BIG ENLARGEMENT" WOULD THEREFORE COME WITH AN EARLY ADJOURNMENT OF PARLIAMENT, IN EARLY OR MID-JULY. NEGOTIATIONS COULD THEN PROCEED OVER THE SUMMER HOLIDAY AND, IF SUCCESSFUL, THE OTHER LINGUISTIC PARTIES COULD ENTER THE GOVERNMENT SHORTLY AFTER PARLIAMENT RESUMES IN THE FALL.

3. VAN ELSLANDE SPOKE WARMLY OF THE U.S. AND IN GLOWING TERMS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S RECENT SUCCESS IN NEGOTIATING THE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. I WAS WELL IMPRESSED WITH VAN ELSLANDE'S FRIENDLY DISPOSITION AND WITH HIS STRAIGHTFORWARD, NO-NONSENSE, MANNER OF EXPRESSION. I BELIEVE MY RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM IS OFF TO A GOOD START. FIRESTONE

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